DAVE MALE

Evangelism for Today

The Rev Canon Dave Male is presently Co- Director for Vision and Strategy for the Church of England, based in Church House, Westminster. He leads a large team which is helping dioceses, churches and networks to implement the Churches National Vision and Strategy. https://www.churchofengland.org/about/vision-and-strategy. Previously he headed up the national Evangelism and Discipleship Team. He is a member of the Archbishops' College of Evangelists.

Before that he was Tutor in Pioneer Mission Training at Ridley Hall and Westcott House from 2006 to 2015. In this role he developed the first Pioneer track in the Church of England. He also started the Centre for Pioneer Learning in Cambridge, an organisation he founded to equip, resource and send out lay and ordained pioneers from across the denominations. Dave spent ten years starting and leading the Net Church in Huddersfield which was one of the first fresh expressions of church in the UK.

He has written many books and articles on evangelism and pioneering issues, and speaks and lectures on evangelism and pioneer issues both nationally and internationally. His book, co-authored with Ridley staff member Paul Weston, The Word's Out, came out in a second edition in early 2019.

He is married to Heather and has three grown up children and one new grandchild! Much of his spare time is spent playing or watching sport.

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EVANGELISM FOR TODAY
Session 1: Looking Up

INTRODUCTION

Leicester Cathedral

DISCUSS TOGETHER IN THREES

1. How do you personally feel about evangelism today?

2. As a percentage estimate how much of your week is spent with those outside the Christian faith?

   a. Work time, i.e. baptism/wedding couples, Alpha, etc.

   b. Personal time, i.e. friends, family, social activities.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT EVANGELISM?

1.

2.

3.

KEY INSIGHTS

EVANGELISM FOR TODAY
Session 1: Looking Up

> ‘Evangelism may be defined as that dimension and activity of the church's mission which seeks to offer every person, everywhere, a valid opportunity to be directly challenged by the gospel of explicit faith in Jesus Christ, with a view to embracing him as Saviour, becoming a living member of his community, and being enlisted in his service of reconciliation, peace, and justice on earth.’
> David Bosch

DISCUSS TOGETHER IN THREES

What do you make of David Bosch’s definition of evangelism?

KEY INSIGHTS

EVANGELISM FOR TODAY
Session 1: Looking Up

ACTS 4:27-35 (NIV)
27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the
people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom
you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand
should happen. 29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants
to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and
perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they
were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

The Believers Share Their Possessions
32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of
their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With
great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord
Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all 34 that there were
no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land
or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales 35 and put it at the
apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

DISCUSS WHAT MIGHT ACTS 4:27-35 TELL US ABOUT EVANGELISM IN CONTEMPORARY CULTURE?

KEY INSIGHTS

EVANGELISM FOR TODAY
Session 2: Looking Out

1. **DISCUSS TOGETHER IN TWOS: WHAT ARE THE TWO BIGGEST BARRIERS IN EVANGELISM FOR THOSE YOU LEAD?**

2. **FOUR HISTORICAL SNAPSHOTS.**

   - 1910.

   - 1954.

   - 1990.

   - 2024.

KEY INSIGHTS

EVANGELISM FOR TODAY
Session 2: Looking Out

3. THE MISSION MAP OF ENGLAND.

Discuss in fours what struck you from the mission map.

4. OUR SOCIETY IS NOT SIMPLY RELIGIOUS OR SIMPLY SECULAR, IT IS COMPLEXLY AND SIMULTANEOUSLY MULTI-RELIGIOUS AND 'MULTI-SECULAR', WITH MANY HYBRIDS.

PROF DAVID FORD

Discuss what you make of this statement of our present situation

KEY INSIGHTS

EVANGELISM FOR TODAY
Session 2: Looking Out

5. THE KEY FACTORS WHICH DRIVE CULTURE TODAY (THIS INCLUDES YOU!).

- Be authentic.
- Trauma.
- Identity.
- The body as a temple.
- Enchantment.

Discuss in fours:

Would you add any other key factors?

How might these factors help and hinder your churches evangelism today?

KEY INSIGHTS

EVANGELISM FOR TODAY
Session 3: Looking In

REMEMBER YOUR STORY
Listen to two people share their story in three mins of how they came to faith and share your story

In fours share:

- What was important in their stories

- Are there any important principles which emerged for you in evangelism?

KEY INSIGHTS

'I am suggesting that the only answer is a congregation of women and men who believe the gospel and live by it.'
Lesslie Newbiggin

'We have to ask much more radically , how do we structure a community in which it goes on being possible, even likely, that people will meet Jesus and in meeting Jesus will want more people to meet Jesus.'
Rowan Williams

EVANGELISM FOR TODAY
Session 3: Looking In

What shape of church might we need to be? A reimagination of what our communities might be:

1. There is no return address.

2. Public worship is probably not the best starting point.

3. Missional re-engagement. 'Minimise meetings and maximise relationships'.

4. A reorientation to whole life discipleship.

5. Church is multi level.

6. This might change us!

KEY INSIGHTS

EVANGELISM FOR TODAY
Session 3: Looking In

DISCUSS TOGETHER IN FOURS

How might this impact your church and its life?

What might you need to stop doing?

What might you need to start doing?

Who do you need to share this with?

KEY INSIGHTS

EVANGELISM FOR TODAY
Session 4: Your Role

Research show that leaders have to lead in evangelism if a church is to be fruitful but many leaders would not put evangelism as one of their top gifts.

1. THE TWO BIG QUESTIONS FOR EVANGELISM

- Do I really believe this?
- Can God really use me?

2. THE LOCAL LEADER FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD

- Envision.
- Encourage.
- Equip.
- Example.
- Expectancy.

KEY INSIGHTS

'Transformed leaders have a clear conviction that God can and will work through their congregation to change lives and that their congregation of people can be used by God to help change the world.'

Harold Percy

EVANGELISM FOR TODAY
Session 4: Your Role

3. THE LOCAL CONGREGATION FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD

- What specifically are you asking them to do in evangelism? Do they know this?

- How are you resourcing them to do this?

4. IT'S NOT WHAT, IT'S WHO

- Its not what you know, it's the One you know.

- Its not what you know, it's the love you experience.

- Its not what you know, it's who you know.

- Its not what you know, its why you are here now.

- Its not what you know, its who you are with.

- Its not what you know, its who you are.

KEY INSIGHTS

EVANGELISM FOR TODAY
Session 4: Your Role

5. FOR FINAL REFLECTION

- What are the two biggest things that has struck you today?

- What do you need to do?

- Who do you need to tell?

KEY INSIGHTS